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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/696,879	10/30/2003	Siong Lee Lim	STL11408	9110

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EXAMINER

PHAM, MINH CHAU THI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1724

DATE MAILED: 04/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/696,879

Applicant(s)

LIM ET AL.

Examiner

Minh-Chau T. Pham

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

After thoroughly considering the Response After Final filed on March 24, 2006, the finality of this instant patent application is hereby withdrawn and the prosecution is reopened for this case.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-10 and 12-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted elements are: attachment means for holding a filter in an aperture of the enclosure, such as in claim 1. How can a filter sit in an aperture of an enclosure without any adhesive or any other fastener to help the filter secured in a hole in an aperture?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-10 and 12-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Crowder et al (6,214,070 B1).

Crowder et al teach a data storage system comprising an enclosure (30) configured to house components of the data storage system (col. 1, lines 4-9), the enclosure having an outer surface and an inner surface, an aperture (38) extending between the outer surface and the inner surface of the enclosure (30) wherein the aperture has a larger cross section adjacent the outer surface than adjacent the inner

surface (see details of Fig. 8 where the outer surface clearly having larger cross section than the inner surface, col. 5, lines 19-37), and a filter (10, col. 6, lines 23-29) having chemical adsorbent (24) disposed within the aperture (38). Crowder et al further teach a label (48) adhered to the outer surface of the enclosure (col. 6, lines 38-46).

Crowder et al also teach a method of removing contaminants from air entering a data storage system comprising the steps of providing an enclosure (30) having an inner surface and an outer surface, forming an aperture (38) having larger cross section adjacent the outer surface than the cross section adjacent the inner surface (see details of Fig. 8), depositing a filter (10) within the aperture (38) to filter air entering the enclosure through the aperture (38), and adhering a label (48) to the outer surface of the enclosure.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on March 24, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that none of the cited prior arts discloses a data storage system comprising an enclosure configured to house components of the data storage system, the enclosure having an outer surface and an inner surface, an aperture extending between the outer surface and the inner surface of the enclosure wherein the aperture has a larger cross section adjacent the outer surface than adjacent the inner surface, and a filter having chemical adsorbent disposed within the aperture. The Examiner now drops all of the cited prior arts and newly introduces Crowder et al as the primary reference under the 102(b) rejections to show: A data storage system comprising an

enclosure (30) configured to house components of the data storage system (col. 1, lines 4-9), the enclosure having an outer surface and an inner surface, an aperture (38) extending between the outer surface and the inner surface of the enclosure (30) wherein the aperture has a larger cross section adjacent the outer surface than adjacent the inner surface (see details of Fig. 8 where the outer surface clearly having larger cross section than the inner surface, col. 5, lines 19-37), and a filter (10, col. 6, lines 23-29) having chemical adsorbent (24) disposed within the aperture (38), as claimed. Crowder et al further teach a label (48) adhered to the outer surface of the enclosure (col. 6, lines 38-46), as claimed.

Crowder et al also teach a method of removing contaminants from air entering a data storage system comprising the steps of providing an enclosure (30) having an inner surface and an outer surface, forming an aperture (38) having larger cross section adjacent the outer surface than the cross section adjacent the inner surface (see details of Fig. 8), depositing a filter (10) within the aperture (38) to filter air entering the enclosure through the aperture (38), and adhering a label (48) to the outer surface of the enclosure, as claimed.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10 and 12-22 have been thoroughly considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection, as discussed above.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh-Chau T. Pham whose telephone number is (571)

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272-1163. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon/Tues/Thur/Fri 7:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Minh-Chau Pham
Patent Examiner
Art Unit: 1724
March 30, 2006